Harold Weisberg
Rt. 8, Frederick, Md. 21701
3/10/75

Mr. Eric Severeid
CBS News
524 W. 57 St.,
New York, N.Y.

Dear Mr. Severeid,

The trouble with speaking and acting as though one speaks from Olympus is that one gets to believe he really is there.

Thus tonight you were the voice of the gods. You distinguished between what you designated "negative" and "positive" evidence.

To us mere mortals who suffer rearing in traditional American beliefs proof is proof. Something is true or it is false. We somehow hold the non-Olympian belief that if by your "negative" evidence it is proven (as I did in early 1965) that the Report of a Presidential Commission on something as earth-changing as a Presidential assassination is false the fault lies not with the "negative" evidence of falsity but with the falsity itself.

I lament that to those on Olympus the converse is true. Had this not been the case there would be a different world today and there would not have been a Watergate.

However, this god stuff is getting to you. You equate your lack of knowledge, a mortal weakness not apparent in these sermons from that mount, with actuality. And you said there is not this "positive" evidence. (Somehow thereby casting the "negative" evidence further accross your imaginary Styx.)

All these years I have been toiling in the vinyards of evidence - and you know the lot of vinyard workers - you have been lapping up all that elixir and manna.

You are paid, from public accounts rather handsomely, to take truth to the people. I have not been paid for more than a decade, by anyone. But I have a goodly store of this "positive" proof the alleged absence of which you bewail.

We have heard your pontifications. So I ask if, Olympian, you are prepared to put your money where your mouth always is and make it possible for this "positive" proof to be available to the people who have not gotten it from you or from the generous source of your manna and elixir.

No pig in a poke. You can see it.

In all this immitation godly chatter you failed to note that the device that triggered your sermon is a) that of the police state and b) of the man who was proven a faker in his defense of Nixon over that Rose Mary's booboo of 18 12 minutes. As you have to know from long

professional experience, you did as much as you could to accredit that police-state device and to sell the book based on it.

About four months ago I offered your fellow Olympians a book not based on any authoritarian machine or any subjective interpretations by Nixonians and spooks of electronic expertise. Rather was it the fruit of eight years of turning hard soil, 90 pages until then "TOP SECRET." All, every page, reproduced in facsimile and illuminated with a goodly (no, not godly) selection of other once-secret documents.

Included, are the words of the chiefest spook or all, Allen Dulles. He never expected them to be seen. They all lie; it is right and proper; it is the ultimate in patriotism. These things and more Dulles did say. But on Olympus and what is more important from Olympus these were not newsworthy words.

Then there was this leaking about all the naughty things those under and since Dulles did. And investigations in which some had testified and they and others would again testify. All these witnesses so essential to any hearing and to "positive" evidence can be expected to be perjurers and to regard perjury as the ultimate dediation. Dulles himself said so.

False scripture?

The n where is the sermon on truth from Olympus if not Heaven?

When nightly I see what happens to a good man when he scales Olympus I am nightly grateful for the toil and poverty of the valley.

Down in the valley, where the crop is truth, whether it is called negative or positive it remains truth.

Mortals need it. To make them - and you- free.

Sincerely,

Harold Weisberg